

Close to Ukrainian Listeners

Interview with **Evgeny Goltsov**, FEBC-Ukraine's Program Coordinator

By *Victor P. Akhterov*

Evgeny, tell us about your roots, your family.

I grew up in a typical atheistic family. My dad and my grandpa loved music, and for my first birthday – yes, when I turned one – my grandfather gave me a saxophone.

"Today, Ukraine is ready to receive the Good News of Christ."

You career was chosen for you early.

Yes. When I was twelve, I was already part of a famous Ukrainian children's orchestra, playing clarinet and saxophone. I visited many cities of the former Soviet Union, and made a lot of friends throughout the country, as well as from abroad.

When I was 19, one of those friends, a fellow musician from West Berlin gave me a Bible.

What did this gift mean to you?



I never had a Bible, so I kept it as a treasure and even tried to read it several times, but to no avail. To me, the book remained mysterious and complicated. That was just before I was drafted into the military.

You don't strike me as a warrior-type.

I can fight! (laughs), but I was drafted to be a member of Ukraine's main military orchestra. Those were eventful, but trying times. As the Soviet Union disintegrated, lawlessness abided; no one knew what to expect. And I was thinking – what's ahead in my life? Who am I? A musician, and that's it? That will be what defines my life ... playing an instrument?

Those are good questions to ask. Was there anyone who could help you find the answers?

One day, we were playing in a city park in Kiev, and not far away was a group of young people playing guitars, singing odd songs, and talking passionately about something to people passing by. They invited me to a church service that was held at the Palace of Composers – it was like God prepared this specifically for me.

The following Sunday I was there, accepting Christ as my Lord and Savior. That was 1992, and since then my passion has been bringing the love of Christ to people, by reaching out to them, not just sitting in a church.



Dr. Victor P. Akhterov:
"Evgeny fully shares FEBC's vision of being close to the listener. Please read this interview and get to know Evgeny."

Did you have a chance to receive any theological training?

I was trained in a Christian college for two years, together with my future wife, Svetlana, and my focus was to learn how to present the Good News to those who never heard it before. Today, Ukraine is ready to receive the Good News.

"My passion is to bring the love of Christ to people, by reaching out to them."

Most of your evangelism was done through music?

Yes, from multiple Christian concerts in Ukraine, Russia, other countries, to playing for the Ukrainian soldiers in the trenches. People listen.

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Interview with Evgeny Goltsov

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God can use music to soften people's hearts, so it is easy to share the Gospel with them.

Why is radio important to you?

In a weird set of events I ended up managing a Russian/Ukrainian radio station and hosting a talk show in Canada, of all places. I spent two years doing that. It was a secular project, but I learned how intimate, impactful, and life-changing radio can be.

"I believe it is up to us to go where people are."

This is an amazing medium, personal like nothing else, and naturally fitting for sharing the Good News.

When I came back to Ukraine and was praying about how God could use me in the years to come, you contacted me and asked if I would join FEBC-Ukraine.

It is obvious to me that God prepared you for this work. What's most important to you in our radio ministry in Ukraine?



The Goltsov family. "My wife Svetlana is my anchor. My daughter Nastya loves evangelism. Both of them volunteer at FEBC."

People. I believe it is up to us to go where people are; Jesus told us to go to people, not wait for them to come to us.

When I heard that one of the main FEBC principles is being close to the listener, I knew this was the place for me.

This is my calling, to be the bridge between people and the church.

What are the program projects that are especially meaningful to you today?

One program I host is for Ukrainian men. Few men in Ukraine can be called responsible husbands or fathers. We talk about what it means to be a real man, and we receive a lot of responses, as we help men understand how Jesus can help them fulfill their destiny.

And, of course, we lead them to a personal relationship with Him. Only Christ can truly change us.

The other program is for Ukrainian soldiers who have experienced war – broken and disillusioned, many on the verge of suicide. We help them find a purpose in life by discovering Jesus, the Source of life.



UKRAINE

Population: 45 million

Evangelicals: 1.5%

FEBC Centers/Stations:
Kiev, Chrnivtsy, Odessa,
Slavyansk, Kramatorsk

Urgent needs:
Developing
Odessa station,
Kramatorsk station, &
Kiev Broadcast Center

Peace in the country

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need an additional **\$3,500** per month to produce quality programs in FEBC's Kiev Broadcast Center. The center produces a 24/7 programming feed that is broadcast through FEBC stations, online outlets, and smart phone apps throughout the country.

A New FM Station in Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan!

Rev. Rudi Wiens

In spite of Islam's growth in the world, especially in Central Asia, God provides us great opportunities to share the Good News of true salvation in Jesus. Our outreach to the culturally Muslim nation of Kyrgyzstan has grown this year. We are in the process of installing our third FM station in Toktogul, Kyrgyzstan, and hope to be on air later this year.

Ravil, one of the few believers there was very happy to meet us. Ravil moved there some years ago in order to share the Gospel with the local people. His joy was overflowing when he heard about our plans to launch an FM station there, making it possible for local Kyrgyz people to hear Christ-centered broadcasts 24/7. It is a beautiful region, located near the man-made Toktogul reservoir (109.8 sq mi). The second city in that area, Karakul, was established about half a century ago on the south side of the reservoir, when the former Soviet Union built a major dam there. Much of Kyrgyzstan's electricity (12 GWh daily) comes from that hydroelectric power plant.

Due to the slow economical development in that part of the country, many people have fallen prey to alcohol and drugs. Relationships are ripped apart and families are disintegrating. There is truly a need for true transformation through the saving knowledge of our Lord Jesus.

Ravil himself is one of those people who lost everything to alcohol and drug problems in the past. By God's mercy and grace, he heard the Gospel and now has become a soul-winner for the Lord. FEBC will be the greatest tool in the hands of Ravil and a few other



The broadcasting center on the 7,122 foot mountaintop where our transmitter and antenna will be installed.



The view from our station of the 109.8 sq mile reservoir with Toktogul on the north side, along with other towns around it.

Christians there, using it to reach out to people with the Good News of our Lord Jesus.

Please pray with us for the following:

- ◆◆◆ A successful installation of the 1kW FM transmitter and antenna on the 7,122 foot mountaintop before the end of 2016.
- ◆◆◆ Organization of the satellite channel which will make it possible to receive the audio signal live from our Bishkek studio for the local broadcast in Toktogul, etc.
- ◆◆◆ The hearts of the people in the Toktogul area. Our prayer is that many will listen and look up to our Lord Jesus for salvation and guidance for living to His glory.



Rudi with Ravil and friends.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE

We need \$2,000 per month for operations, about \$65 per day. Any amount to run the station for a specific number of days will be greatly appreciated.

RESPONSES FROM THE WAR ZONE:

The broadcast tower that was destroyed during the military conflict in Slavyansk, Eastern Ukraine, is being rebuilt. The rebuilding process is being protected by rotating groups of soldiers, many coming directly from the front lines.

Below is a part of an interview with one of the commanders, a captain (name withheld):

“I’ve seen several of my friends lose their lives. These scars will be in my heart forever. My soldiers went through the same horrifying experiences.

“It is so wonderful for us to hear chaplains on your radio, to see that someone understands our pain. **No one else speaks about love to us. No one. No one speaks about the importance of protecting our families, but FEBC.**

“You don’t know how much your programs mean to us, how many soldiers who never thought about God before pray as they listen to the radio. Thank you.”



Eduard Kurilenko distributes radios to soldiers

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Thousands of our listeners in Eastern Ukraine are traumatized by the war, and are now surviving any way they can, with little help from the government or anyone else. Joblessness, alcoholism, hopelessness and a new wave of suicides define the new normal for the region. FEBC’s voice is desperately needed there.



Vera shared her story:

“After two years of military conflict, I knew I needed something in my life that the war could not take away from me. Clearly, that could not be material wealth. So many of my neighbors lost everything they owned – houses, cars... what is much scarier, some lost their children, their husbands and wives.

“I was thinking: I survived all of this, but for what? To live few more years and then die? Is that the only difference, how many years one survives?

“That’s when I started to listen to FEBC radio. A new world opened up to me. I am learning things that I already knew in my heart: I was created by God, I have an eternal soul, and He loves me. He loves me! **All of this is still hard to believe in, but I do, I do believe!**

“I have not gone to church yet, I am still afraid. All my friends say that evangelicals are a sect, or a cult. I know it’s not true, but am still afraid.

“I will continue to listen and pray. Also, I already made some Christian friends, they are great people.”

